

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KARL WAITSCHIES**, on March 3, 2005 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Karl Waitschies, Chairman (R)
Rep. Gary Branae, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Bob Lake, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Margaret H. Campbell (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Tom Facey (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. George G. Groesbeck (D)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Jim Peterson (R)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Scott Sales (R)
Rep. Bill Warden (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Rep. John Balyeat (R)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary
Audio Technician

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 703, 2/14/2005; SB 26, 2/21/2005
Executive Action: SB 26

HEARING ON SB 26

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:53 SEN. BOB STORY (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 26, Revise duties of revenue and transportation interim committee.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:
None.

Closing by Sponsor:

00:02:20 SEN. BOB STORY (R), SD 30 closed the hearing on SB 26.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 26

00:03:19 **Motion/Vote:** REP. SALES moved that SB 26 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with REPS. BUTCHER, HIMMELBERGER, BALYEAT, CAMPBELL, FACEY and WISEMAN voting by proxy. REP. KARL WAITSCHIES will carry the bill.

00:03:46 **Motion:** REP. LAMBERT moved that SB 26 BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR. Motion failed when REP. GROESBECK objected to the motion.

HEARING ON HB 703

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:05:39 REP. BOB BERGREN (D), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 703, Revise method of determining value of railroad systems for property tax purposes.

EXHIBIT (tah47a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:10:44 Richard Owen, Montana Graingrowers Association
 00:12:49 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Opponents' Testimony:

00:13:27 Pat Keim, Director of State Government Affairs,
 Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway
 Company

EXHIBIT (tah47a02)

EXHIBIT (tah47a03)

00:21:39 Alec Vincent, Director of Taxes, BNSF Railway
 Company

EXHIBIT (tah47a04)

00:27:13 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association
 00:33:12 Ed Bartlett, Attorney, representing Union Pacific
 Railroad Company
 00:34:15 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Informational Testimony:

00:34:50 Gene Walborn, Montana Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:35:05 REP. ROSS
 00:38:21 REP. McALPIN
 00:41:05 REP. BUTCHER
 00:48:30 REP. RASER
 00:56:34 REP. FACEY
 00:57:46 REP. GROESBECK
 00:59:13 REP. LAKE
 01:01:48 REP. ROSS
 01:03:57 REP. PETERSON
 01:06:51 REP. FACEY
 01:08:21 CHAIRMAN PETERSON

Closing by Sponsor:

01:08:57 REP. BOB BERGREN (D), HD 33 closed the hearing on
 HB 703.

01:14:53

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:20 A.M.

REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

KW/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah47aad0.TIF](#))